

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL DURBAN

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SF, US

SUBJECT: IVP JUSTICE G.G.A. MUNNIK

REFERENCE: PRETORIA A-237, DEC. 12, 1974

1. RAND DAILY MAIL CORRESPONDENT RICHARD WALKER NOTICED MUNNIK'S NAME ON RECENTLY PUBLISHED LIST OF IVP GRANTEES AND ASKED DEPT. IF HE IS SAME MUNNIK WHO WAS JUDGE IN SLANDER ACTION AGAINST DRUM MAGAZINE IN 1960 OR 1961. INFORMED THAT G.G.A. MUNNIK WAS AN ACTING JUDGE OF THE TRANSVAAL DIVISION OF THE SUPREME COURT DURING 1960-61, WALKER CONCLUDED HE IS SAME MUNNIK.

2. ACCORDING TO WALKER, IN EARLY 1960'S DRUM PUBLISHED AN EXPOSE ON INHUMANE CONDITIONS CONVICT LABORERS WERE SUB-

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JECTED TO BY FARMERS IN NORTHERN TRANSVAAL, INCLUDING BEAT-

INGS, BEING "TIED UP" IN FILTHY, OVERCROWDED QUARTERS AT NIGHT, WARNING SHOTS BEING FIRED AT THEM, ETC. IN A SLANDER SUIT AGAINST DRUM BY ONE OF THE FARMERS, MUNNIK REPORTEDLY RENDERED OPINION THAT WHILE IT MAY BE TRUE THAT THE CONVICTS WERE "TIED UP" ETC., THIS WAS NOT NECESSARILY INHUMANE. THIS OPINION NATURALLY CREATED A PRESS SENSATION AND WAS WIDELY PUBLISHED ABROAD.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION POSTS CAN PROVIDE SINCE IT IS LIKELY THAT WALKER WILL PUBLISH STORY AND DOMESTIC

INTEREST GROUPS WILL PROTEST MUNNIK'S VISIT. INGERSOLL

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